



State of Utah
Department of
Environmental Quality

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Executive Director

William J. Sinclair
Deputy Director

OLENE S. WALKER
Governor

GAYLE F. McKEACHNIE
Lieutenant Governor

December 10, 2004

The Honorable Robert Bennett
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building
125 South State Street Suite 4225
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1188

Dear Senator Bennett:

RE: Funding for Great Salt Lake Studies

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality has established a Steering Committee of Stakeholders to look at water quality standards for the Great Salt Lake. This water body is currently protected by narrative standards but recent events and information have indicated that continued protection may require specific numeric standards. However, the unique character of the Lake requires better knowledge than we have available in order to establish scientifically sound numeric standards. The Steering Committee has convened a nationally-renowned Science Panel to review the state of the science regarding Great Salt Lake water quality and to identify gaps in knowledge. These gaps will need to be resolved through research before standards can be established.

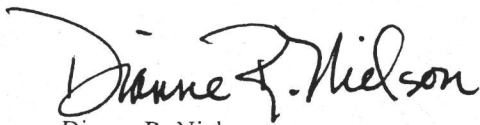
The DEQ Division of Water Quality has received limited funding from EPA for wetland research associated with the Great Salt Lake. Various stakeholders have also provided funding for Lake research. However, more money is needed to complete the necessary research within a reasonable period. As representatives of various stakeholder groups we feel that the national importance of the Great Salt Lake warrants direct federal funding for this critical research. We are sure that you agree the Great Salt Lake is an extremely valuable resource for Utah. Thus, we request the opportunity to discuss this work with you or your staff and identify possible sources for these critical funds. We are available for such a meeting as your time permits.

Since this research needs to be substantially under way within the next two years, we will be contacting you in the near future, or you can contact Walt Baker, Acting Director of the Division of Water Quality, at 801-538-6088 to facilitate the meeting. Information on the work of the Steering Committee can be found at the following web site: www.deq.utah.gov/issues/GSL_WQSC/index.htm.


We appreciate your time and consideration for the Great Salt Lake water quality program and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Great Salt Lake Water Quality
Steering Committee Members



Dianne R. Nielson
Utah Department of Environmental Quality



Walter Baker
Utah Division of Water Quality



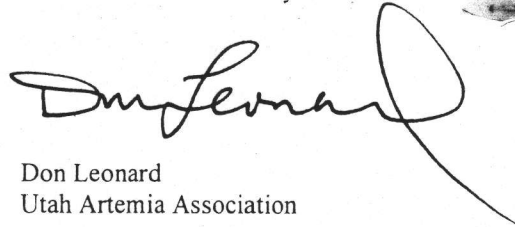
Miles Moretti
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources



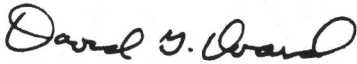
Joel Frandsen
Utah Division of Forestry and State Lands



Mark Kaschmitter
Great Salt Lake Minerals



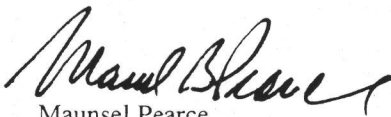
Don Leonard
Utah Artemia Association



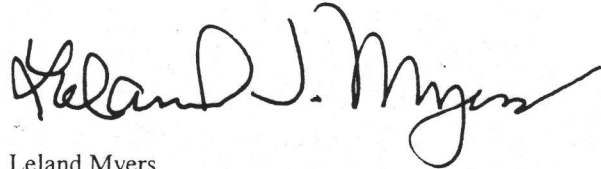
David Ovard
Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District



Kelly Payne
Kennecott Utah Copper Corporation



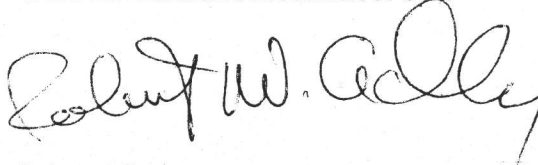
Maunsel Pearce
Great Salt Lake Alliance



Leland Myers
Water Environment Association of Utah



Ed Blaney
Wasatch Front Regional Council



Robert Adler
Representing Environmental Association Interests

The Following Federal Government Entities are involved in and committed to the process:

US Environmental Protection Agency

US Fish and Wildlife Service

US Geological Survey